

COURSE
SYLLABUS

Phil 330 * Ethics
TR 12:30-1:50 p.m. * 107 Brown Hall
<https://sites.google.com/a/cougars.ccis.edu/phil330>

Instructor

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Course
Information

3 credit hours (3 lecture hours, 0 lab hours)
Prerequisites: Junior standing or instructor consent

Course
Description

Intensive study of works representing three major movements in the history of ethical theory.

Texts

1. Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*
2. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*
3. John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*
4. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
5. Confucius, *Analects*

Course
Objectives

- To understand three basic approaches to philosophical ethics, i.e., deontology, utilitarianism, virtue theory.
- To evaluate theoretical approaches to ethics in order to formulate a personal approach to ethics that is coherent and defensible.

Measurable
Course
Outcomes

- Read classic philosophical prose (specifically classical theoretical ethics) for critical understanding.
- Explain the three basic approaches to philosophical ethics discussed in this course.
- Formalize sophisticated philosophical arguments found in theoretical ethics, identify problems in the basic approaches of these theories, and formally present possible solutions to those problems.
- Apply ideas from classical ethical theories to contemporary ethical situations and evaluate the effectiveness of these theories in addressing ethical dilemmas.

Course
Requirements

READING: You need to do the assigned reading before class. You should do this even if you feel that you do not grasp all of what you are reading, which is not an uncommon experience. Absorbing philosophical ideas is a gradual process, and much like the ability of the ground to absorb rain water by degrees over time, you will be best served by approaching the material in short, steady, gentle bursts over several days and weeks. Trust me on this.

CLASS DISCUSSION: This course works better as a series of discussions rather than as a mere series of lectures. I provide extensive handouts to summarize key elements of the readings in order to free time for discussion, questions and arguments. Philosophy is more exciting as a group sport. Come to class prepared to say something. I want to hear from you, and help you learn how to have a philosophical dialogue with your class mates. *Class attendance alone will not be sufficient to earn full class participation credit.*

EXAMS: There will be an exam over each of the five philosophers that we are discussing. Kant will represent deontological ethics. Hume and Mill will represent utilitarianism. Aristotle and Confucius will represent virtue ethics and provide us with an opportunity for cross-cultural comparison.

TERM PAPER: You will write a term paper of approximately 1500 words, choosing and developing your own topic. You will discuss your topic and approach with me before beginning the writing process. Additional information about term paper requirements will be provided later in the semester.

Grading

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Exam on Kant	15%
Exam on Hume	15%
Exam on Mill	15%
Exam on Aristotle	15%
Exam on Confucius	15%
Term Paper	15%
Class Participation	10%

GRADING SCALE:

A (Excellent) = 90-100%, B (Above Average) = 80-89%, C (Average) = 70-79%,
D (Below Average) = 60-69%, F (Failing) = 0-59%

A final grade of "I" will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the course work must be completed. Students wishing to withdraw from the course with a final grade of "W" must do so before the official date set by the college.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Students guilty of academic dishonesty will receive an "F" on the assignment in question and may be dropped from the course. If such an incidence occurs after the official drop date, the student will receive an "F" for the course.

Class Conduct

"Students are expected to conduct themselves on campus and in class so others are not distracted from the pursuit of learning. Discourteous or unseemly conduct may result in a student being asked to leave the classroom. Persistent misconduct on the part of a student is subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook." (*Columbia College Undergraduate Handbook*, p. 9)

Above all, we must treat each other with respect and courtesy. With this principle in mind, please note the following rules in effect for this class:

- Arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the duration of the class.
- Turn off and put away cell phones, pagers, I-pods, etc.
- Refrain from eating. (Beverages are permitted.)

Any exceptions to these rules need to be cleared with me in advance. Otherwise, violations may result in your being asked to leave the classroom. Repeated violations will result in your being dropped from the class. Please refer to the Student Handbook for other rules of conduct in effect.

Library Resources

Online databases are available at <http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp>. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Writing Assistance

The Writing Center (<http://www.cccis.edu/departments/writingcenter/>) provides free individual assistance and tutorials to students working on papers assigned in any course taught on the home campus.

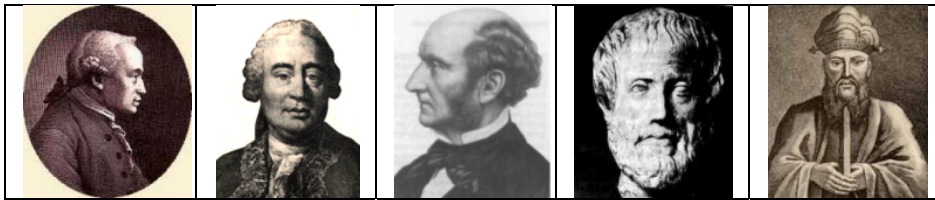
ADA

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic adjustments or auxiliary aids or services for this course are required to register with the ADA Coordinator, 214 AHSC, 875-7626.

Phil 330- Ethics

Fall 2009 * TR 12:30 – 1:50 p.m. * 107 Brown

Instructor M. Johnson-Moxley

<https://sites.google.com/a/cougars.ccis.edu/phil330>**COURSE SCHEDULE**Graded Components

Exam 1 – Kant	15%
Exam 2 – Hume	15%
Exam 3 – Mill	15%
Exam 4 – Aristotle	15%
Exam 5 – Confucius	15%
Term Paper	15%
Class Participation	10%

No	Date	Unit	Topics	Readings
01	Aug 25	Course Overview	Purpose, Content and Expectations	Course syllabus
		Kant's Duty Ethics	Kant's idea of what it means for ethics to be scientific	<i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Preface (1-5); see handout 1A
02	Aug 27	Kant	Duty and the good will— a “just do it” theory of right action; the active (tested) vs. passive (untested) moral will	<i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , First Section (1-17); see handout 1B
03	Sept 1	Kant	<u>Mock Quiz No. 1</u> Hypothetical vs. categorical imperatives; variations of Kant's categorical moral imperative	<i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Second Section (19-30); see handout 1C
04	Sept 3	Kant	The kingdom of ends; perfect and imperfect duties to ourselves and others	<i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Second Section (30-48); see handout 1D
05	Sept 8	Kant	<u>Mock Quiz No. 2</u> Wrap-up of Second Section	
06	Sept 10	Kant	Applying Kant to moral questions turning on the notion of “persons”— abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide and animal rights	See handout 1E
**	Sat Sept 12	Kant	Optional Review Session 1 – 2 pm in Stafford Library Classroom	See review handout
07	Sept 15	Kant	Review of Kantian ethics	***
08	Sept 17	Kant	<u>Exam on Kantian ethics</u>	***
09	Sept 22	Utilitarianism— Hume	Empirical science of ethics; moral reason v. moral sentiment; value of usefulness— case in point: justice exists only because it is useful	<i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i> , Introduction (1-10), Sections 1-3 (13-34); see handout 2A
10	Sept 24	Hume	Application: Rules of Just Warfare	See supplemental handout

11	Sept 29	Hume	<u>Mock Quiz No. 3</u> Common ideas of good and bad; abstracting general rules; what total malice would be; qualities useful to ourselves and others	<i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i> , Sections 4-5 (34-51); Section 9 (72-82); see handout 2B
12	Oct 1	Hume	Review of Hume's utilitarianism	*****
**	Sat Oct 3	Mill	Optional Review Session 10-11 am in Stafford Library Classroom	See review handout
13	Oct 6	Hume	<u>Exam on Hume's utilitarianism</u>	*****
14	Oct 8	Utilitarianism— Mill	Mill: the greatest happiness principle; objections to utilitarianism considered	<i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-26); see handout 3A
15	Oct 13	Mill	(Objections, cont'd.); internal and external sanctions of morality	<i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters 3-5 (pp. 27-64); see handouts 3A, 3B
16	Oct 15	Mill	Learned v. innate moral ideas; justice and rights; perfect and imperfect duties	See handout 3B, cont'd.
17	Oct 20	Mill	<u>Mock Quiz No. 4</u> Group discussions: applying the utilitarian principle to contemporary moral questions	See handout 3C
18	Oct 22	Mill	Review of Mill's utilitarianism	See review handout
**	Sat Oct 24	Mill	Optional Review Session 10-11 am in Stafford Library Classroom	See review handout
19	Oct 27	Mill	<u>Exam on Mill's utilitarianism</u>	*****
20	Oct 29	Virtue ethics— Aristotle	Aristotle's conception of rational humanity; the highest good; intellectual virtues; the preconditions of morality	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I: S1-9, S13; Book VI: S1-10 (skim); Book III: S1-5 See handout 4A (includes material from <i>De Anima</i> on the rational soul)
21	Nov 3	Aristotle	(Preconditions, cont'd.); moral virtues and the Mean; moral weakness	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II, S1-9; Book VII, S1-9; see handout 4B
22	Nov 5	Aristotle	<u>Mock Quiz No. 5</u> (Moral weakness, cont'd.); pleasure; friendship	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VII, S11-14; Book X, S1-5; Book VIII, S1-14, Book IX, S1-3, S9-12; see handout 4C
**	Sat Nov 7	Paper Writing	Optional session 10-11 am Stafford Library Classroom: Writing a Philosophy Paper (and opportunity to review paper topic with me)	See writing handout
23	Nov 10	Aristotle	(Friendship, cont'd.); justice	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book V, S1-11; see handout 4D
24	Nov 12	Aristotle	<u>Paper Topics Due</u> Review for Aristotle exam	See review handout
**	Sat Nov 14	Aristotle	Optional Review Session 10-11 am in Stafford Library Classroom	See review handout
25	Nov 17	Aristotle	<u>Exam on Aristotelian Virtue ethics</u>	*****

26	Nov 19	Virtue ethics— Confucius	Cultural refinement (<i>wen</i>) of one's native substance (<i>zhi</i>)	<i>Analects</i> Introduction, pp. xiii-xxv; 1.2, 1.6, 1.15, 2.12, 3.4, 3.8, 5.7, 5.10, 5.22, 6.12, 6.18, 7.6, 7.20, 7.28, 8.16, 9.26, 11.1, 12.1, 12.8, 13.27, 15.15, 15.18, 15.39, 16.9, 17.2; see handout 5A
** Thanksgiving Break Nov. 23-27 **				
27	Dec 1	Confucius	The Golden Mean; harmonious balance and harmonious ease (<i>wu-wei</i>)	<i>Analects</i> 1.12, 2.3, 2.21, 3.7, 4.6, 4.23, 5.10, 6.18, 6.29, 7.33, 8.2, 8.18, 11.26, 13.21, 13.23, 14.4, 15.5, 16.8, 17.8, 17.23, 17.24; see handout 5B
28	Dec 3	Confucius	<u>Mock Quiz No. 6</u> The gentleman (<i>junzi</i>); the excellent person (<i>shanren</i>) and the petty person (<i>xiaoren</i>); the "perfect person" (<i>chengren</i>)	<i>Analects</i> 2.14, 4.2, 4.7, 4.11, 4.14, 4.16, 6.19, 6.20, 7.3, 8.9, 9.28, 10.14, 12.19, 13.4, 13.25, 13.26, 14.6, 14.12, 14.23, 14.24, 14.28, 15.21, 15.32, 17.4, 17.12, 17.15, 19.8; see handout 5C
29	Dec 8	Confucius	<i>Course evaluations</i> The Single Thread— knowing others/ empathy (<i>shu</i>), the Golden Rule; learning from others, friendship	<i>Analects</i> 1.8, 1.16, 4.15, 4.17, 5.12, 5.15, 5.27, 6.5, 6.6, 6.21, 6.30, 7.8, 7.22, 7.29, 7.32, 10.17, 12.2, 12.16, 12.20, 12.22, 14.29, 15.3, 15.8, 15.23, 15.24; see handout 5D
30	Dec 10	Confucius	Confucius' spiritual autobiography Review for Confucian Virtue ethics exam <u>Papers due by 5 p.m.</u>	<i>Analects</i> 2.4; compare to 7.6 See review handout
**	Sat Dec 12	Confucius	Optional Review Session 10-11 am in Stafford Library Classroom	See review handout
31	Wed Dec 16	Confucius	<u>Exam on Confucian Virtue ethics [final]</u>	*****

Helpful glossary entries, Aristotle's *Ethics*: **character** (*ēthos*) 319, complete (*teleios*) 320, cultivated, gracious (*charieis*) 321, decision (*prohairesis*) 322, education (*paideia*) 324, **ethics** (*ēthika*) 326-7, friendship (*philia*) 330, **happiness** (*eudaimonia*) 333, mean (*mesotēs*) 338, pleasure (*hēdonē*) 342-3, prudence (*phronēsis*) 345, reason (*logos*) 346, soul (*psuchē*) 348-9, **vir**(*aretē*) 352-3,

Helpful glossary entries, Confucius' *Analects*: benevolence (*hui*) 237, culture, **cultural refinement** (*wen*) 237, dutifulness (*zhong*) 238, fate (*ming*) 238, filial piety (*xiao*) 238, **gentleman** (*junzi*) 238, **goodness** (*ren*) 238, learning (*xue*) 239, **native substance** (*zhi*) 240, purity (*qing*) 241, rightness (*yi*) 241, ritual propriety (*li*) 241, thinking (*si*) 242, trustworthiness (*xin*) 242, **understanding** (*shu*) 242, uprightness (*zhi*) 242, *vir*(*de*) 242, **Way** (*dao*) 243, wisdom (*zhi*) 243, **wu-wei** 243